

## External Advisory Group (EAG) 8/12/14

Members In Attendance: John Crodelle; Audra Gerty; Jim Hammond; Joe LePore; Tim Massie; Andrew O’Grady; Sen. Steve Saland

Guests: Deputy County Executive Bill O’Neil; Dutchess County Commissioner of Public Works Noel Knille; Director of Probation and Community Corrections Mary Ellen Still; Dutchess County Jail Administrator George Krom; CJC consultant ; Gary Christensen

Minutes were recorded by Susan McGuire

- It was noted that Sen. Saland would be the chair of the EAC and Tim Massie would be vice-chair
- The project will be referred to as ***The Justice and Transition Center Project***
- Chairman Saland noted that County Executive Molinaro stressed the importance of transparency and asked for clarification on the committee’s role which was explained during the subsequent presentation. He asked if in our volunteer advisory capacity are we a “public” body for purposes of the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL-as well as Open Meetings Law) in the event, a meeting in the nature of what would be termed an “executive session” if the EAG was a public body, was viewed as being necessary. He also asked what venues or portions of the project are totally within the purview of the committee?

DCE Bill O’Neil informed the group that the County Attorney had opined that the EAG was not subject to the open meetings law and a confirmation was being sought from FOIL expert Bob Freeman.

- Public Works Commissioner Noel Knille will serve as County liaison to the EAG.
- A Power Point Presentation was provided by George Krom, Bill O’Neil, Noel Knille and Mary Ellen Still. Presentation included a project background, PODs Implementation Update, planning process for development, timeline, explanation of the 3 advisory groups, (EAG, Special Populations Workgroup and Legislative Advisory Committee) and who was on each. A copy of the presentation is attached:



DCJTC Update  
Presentation - 8-12-1

- Dutchess County government is currently housing out approximately 250 inmates and on average, more than 200 inmates have been housed out daily for the last 2 years, costing the county in excess of \$8 million per year. This presents problems for inmates, their families, and those working with them – e.g., defense attorneys, public defenders, probation.
- Temporary housing PODs will provide a means to return inmates to Dutchess County pending completion of the Justice Transition Center. They will help alleviate the logistical log jams, provide significant cost savings while also allowing the opportunity to assess impact on length of stay which should help to determine final housing needs for the new facility.
- Campus design: In addition to responding to issues of public safety that may be presented or arise, it is envisioned that the North Hamilton Street property will become a campus like setting

creating a continuum of Incarceration addressing support for special needs populations, including those with mental health services, substance abuse services. It is believed that through construction or renovation such buildings could assist diversion from the jail and greater use of ATI's.

- An additional aspect of this project is the opportunity to create a desirable urban streetscape using the Fallkill Creek and the CSX rail spur that runs behind the current jail property. Design could enhance the area which is within the new City of Poughkeepsie Walkway zoning with potential retail investment, community beautification and park area and is advised that the same holds true for functional offices and residences to address inmate re-entry needs.
- The county places heavy emphasis on evidence based solutions in all phases of development, planning and building of this new facility and advises that the same holds true for the programs and alternatives to incarceration designed to help reduce recidivism.
- Conclusions summarized;
  1. Committee needs a defined product to work with. The goal is to clearly define the product, but it will be a work in progress for 2014 and much of 2015.
  2. A tour of the existing facility will be planned in the near future, and in advance of any scheduled meeting of the EAG to acquaint members with the current jail and site.
  3. Time slot and dates for future meetings are a priority. Since this is a Committee of Volunteers all efforts to accommodate schedules- keeping in mind we need to meet at times that are convenient for the public to attend is our goal. **SUSAN MCGUIRE WILL EMAIL A REQUEST FOR ANY DAY OR TIME OF THE WEEK THAT IS COMPLETELY NOT AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO MEET. THIS WILL BE IN A SEPARATE EMAIL.** A calendar for meetings will be published on the CJC webpage.
  4. The public will be encouraged to communicate with the EAG. OCIS will set-up an email address and space on the CJC webpage. The public will be directed to these areas to get information and offer opinions or ask questions. Social Media (Facebook) will also be used to interact with the public concerning this project and the activities associated with the EAG. The County's Communication director will attend a future meeting and present an update on the communication plan.
  5. Future meetings will be held in the Dutchess County Legislative Chambers and be open to the public. The public will not be meeting participants. The public will be encouraged to communicate with the EAG by such means as shall be provided as set forth in above.
  6. The EAG left for future consideration designation of an appropriate means by which to conduct appropriate forum or forums in which public participation will be invited.